



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of:

Johannes I.M. COBBEN et al.

Serial No.: 09/889,598

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: SECURITY DOCUMENT WITH A
PERFORATION PATTERN

Atty. Docket No.: 000771.00023

Group Art Unit: 3722

Examiner: Monica S. Carter

Confirmation No.:

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Office Action of February 18, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 27-29, 31-50 are pending in this application. The indication that claims 27-29, 31-48 and 50 are allowed is appreciated.

Claim 49 remains rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cobben (WO 95/26274). Claim 49, like allowed claim 48 and allowed claim 31, is directed to a forge-proof document comprising a security feature in the form of a perforation pattern which displays gray tones when viewed against a bright background.

Specifically, claim 49 is directed to a method for arranging a perforation pattern in a forge-proof document comprising a security feature in the form of a perforation pattern which displays gray tones when viewed against a bright background, the method comprising the following steps: arranging the document to be provided of a perforation pattern in a position in which it can be irradiated by a laser source; and irradiating the document by a laser source which is controlled to obtain a first image in the document wherein: the laser source is programmed to apply a perforation pattern comprising perforations of which the cross-section in the transverse plane of the perforation pattern is unequal to a circle.

Cobben does not teach or suggest providing perforations to provide gray tones. Cobben describes perforations such as shown in Fig. 2, item 8 and creating V-shaped channels as shown

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